



Client: The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust Yellow News  
Source: Countryman's Weekly  
Date: 19/07/2017

Keyword: Auchnerran  
Page: 4  
Reach: 22000  
Size: 124  
Value: 81.84

## Laser fence trials underway in Scotland

**TRIALS of a unique laser fence system are underway in Scotland.**

The LIFE+ Laser Fence project is investigating whether low-powered bird-scaring lasers might be effective at excluding various mammalian pests from designated areas.

The lasers work by shining a bright green spot on the ground – often at some distance from the source – and the movement of the spot is what is thought

to scare birds away so effectively.

The hope is, if this method also works on mammals, it will eventually reduce the reliance on lethal methods of control, such as the use of rodenticides.

Led by Liverpool John Moores University, the project has partners in England, Spain and Holland, all of who will be running trials of various kinds.

In Scotland, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust



(GWCT) is running trials at Auchnerran, its Scottish demonstration farm, where it is focusing on rabbits – a major pest on the farm with many thousands of individuals present – deer and some of the potential predators of its wader populations, including rats.

The first, on rabbits, has just begun with a period of monitoring before the introduction of the lasers, and the full experiment will last about a month. The system uses an automatic laser programmed to follow a carefully set pattern of movements over the ground.